

THE  
VOLUNTEER REVIEW  
And Military and Naval Gazette.  
VOLUME V.  
1871.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW enters on the fifth year of its existence. When it was first projected fears were entertained for its ultimate success, as two efforts of a similar kind had been made and failed for want of support; but we are happy to say these fears were groundless, and that the VOLUNTEER REVIEW may now be said to be firmly established, thanks to the support it has met with from the hands of the Volunteer Force of the Dominion. It now circulates largely through Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and even the new Province of Manitoba has extended its generous support. Nor is it confined to these Provinces only, but in the Mother Country, and even the United States it has subscribers and supporters. No other Journal in the Dominion has so wide and extended a circulation as the VOLUNTEER REVIEW; and therefore it offers unparalleled facilities to general advertisers. Our terms for advertising will be found liberal on application, either personally, or by letter *post paid*.

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No Volunteer officer can be well posted concerning the condition, movements, and prospects of the Force unless he receives the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

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Full and reliable reports of RIFLE MATCHES, INSPECTIONS, and other matters connected with the Force appear regularly in our Columns.

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#### THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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#### TO CORRESPONDENTS

All Communications regarding the Militia or Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Department, should be addressed to the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the Provinces are particularly requested to favor us regularly with weekly information concerning the movements and doings of their respective Corps, including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle practice &c.

We shall feel obliged to send forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that it may reach us in time for publication.

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#### The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,  
To guard the Monarch, fence the law."

OTTAWA, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1871.

On Friday, the 24th of March, the Adjutant General presented to Private Wm. Good, of the 43rd Battalion (Carleton), his prize of \$50 and a silver medal, as the best rifle shot in the Canadian army during the the competition at the annual training for 1870. The medal bears on one side the figure of a rifleman kneeling, surrounded by a wreath of laurel, and on the other a suitable inscription. This was the Adjutant General's special prize, and will be this year presented to any non-commissioned officer or soldier of the active force who may attain the highest individual figure of merit during the annual training. We had occasion before to call attention to this feature, introduced last year into the practice of our military force by the care and foresight of the Adjutant General as an illustration of the principle laid down in his Report that the "proper use of the rifle," is a primary consideration in the discipline of any army. By precept and example that lesson has been laid before the officers and men of our Active force. Every inducement held out to them to follow up the principle to its legitimate conclusion, and by making themselves accomplished marksmen, arrive at the desirable consummation of fitting themselves for the proper discharge of those duties which

the country requires of its soldiers. Apart from any public advantage, the soldier who perfects himself in a thorough knowledge of his weapon, with so much of ordinary drill as will enable him to act in concert in the field with his comrades, is worth half a dozen men who have not that knowledge, and will be far more likely to come off unhurt in a fight. Moreover, in skirmishing a thorough mastery of the rifle is one of the very best requisites—each individual soldier being supposed to fight on his own *hook*, the man who does not understand the weapon he uses, in other words, is not a good marksman, is worse than useless—he goes to certain death, or if not, he wastes more ammunition than he is worth, and endangers the valuable lives of his efficient comrades. It follows, therefore, that the first duty of company officers is to excite the principle of emulation, amongst their men, to see that they are thoroughly well trained to the use of the rifle, and to take every opportunity of teaching them the true principles of skirmishing drill.

Foreign examples are only useful for the lessons of experience they teach us; as systems they are not adapted to our social condition, and as tactical precedents are inapplicable to the topography of the country in which our warlike operations are likely to be carried on. A purely *native* system worked out as intelligently and steadily as ours has been needs nothing beyond practical application to turn out as perfect, intelligent, active and enterprising a force in the Dominion of Canada as the world can produce. But in order to effect all this the recommendations of the gallant and experienced soldier who commands that force must be implicitly attended to. Military knowledge, with its concomitants of confidence, intelligence, and general efficiency cannot be acquired at once. It will take time to make an army that perfect machine whose various parts are in true working order, and the events which have occurred in Europe shows us that it is a distinguishing mark of real statesmanship to carefully encourage the military spirit of the people, and a first duty to fit them for discharging the obligations they owe their country and themselves by being always ready to take part in defensive warfare.

The whole object of the organization which the Adjutant General has so successfully carried out, is directed to forward the object detailed above, and in order to effectually accomplish the same every Military District is the nucleus of a complete army corps. It only requires the necessary time and means to fill in all its details to make, at any moment *one-third* of the able-bodied male inhabitants of such district available; and there can be no question that much of our commercial and financial prosperity is due to the fact that in a little over *two* years the country embodied and trained a formidable army, and that it had provided legal and constitutional means to fill up that army, to